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January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing this letter to express my opinions about the settlement that was reached last November between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I am in favor of this agreement because it brings an end to the three years of litigation that have been plaguing Microsoft, and hampering innovation in the entire IT industry.

Microsoft did not get off easy in the settlement, and they have had restrictions and obligations placed on them that were never even an issue in the initial suit. They have agreed to turn over, to their competitors, interfaces that are internal to the Windows operating system, as well as coding in Windows that is used to communicate with other software. These terms go a little far, but what is done is done. We now need to put all of this behind us and move on.

Although I don't feel this case should ever have begun in the first place, I support the settlement since it squashes the litigation that has been hampering the technology industry for years now. The proposed agreement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice must be approved as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Riddell
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